

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-120-2008-56-EA

PROJECT NAME: Pumphouse Recreation Site Improvements

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T 1S, R 82W, Section 12

APPLICANT: BLM

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background: The Pumphouse Recreation Site (Pumphouse) is located adjacent to the Colorado River within the Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area. Approximately 30,000 visitors use the site on an annual basis as a river access point and for overnight camping. The site currently has 3 launch ramps, 6 vault toilets, vehicle parking areas, electricity, a water system that delivers potable water, and a 12-site camping area with picnic tables and fire rings. The current recreation facilities were developed in a piecemeal fashion as money became available and without an overall long-term plan. Over time, some of the development has not adequately or efficiently met the public demand at the site. To address the inefficiencies of the existing facilities, BLM worked with a landscape architect to develop a long-range plan to fully utilize the site.

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action includes new construction and remodel of existing infrastructure to more efficiently utilize the site (see project area map and drawing L-1 for overview of proposed improvements.) The specific drawings for each improvement project are included as attachments. The work would be completed by a contractor and begin in mid-to-late September 2008. Certain portions of the recreation site would be temporarily closed during construction, but access to the river via Launch #1 would remain open during the entire construction period.

The contractor would complete items 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 (not including one of the group sites, the overflow group site parking and the RV pads), and 9 listed below starting in September 2008. The other items would be completed as funds became available.

1. The existing campground would be remodeled to reduce the number of sites from 12 to 8. Abandoned sites would be rehabilitated, and existing sites would be relocated to resolve the problem of crowding and access to the camp sites (see drawing L-2).
2. To improve parking between Launch #1 and #2, the seasonal/host trailer sites would be moved from their current location to a new location adjacent to the access road to launch #3 and the existing parking lot would be remodeled and expanded (see drawings L-2 and L-3).
3. To improve Launch #2, the existing parking/unloading area would be remodeled as a circular, drive through unloading area, and a new boat slide would be constructed with steps to facilitate easier launching of boats. A short section of buck & rail fence would be constructed on the downstream side of the ramp near the water to reduce riparian vegetation damage (see drawings L-3 and L-4).
4. The existing vault toilet at Launch #2 would be replaced with a new concrete eXtreme (CXT) vault toilet that is handicap accessible (see drawings L-3 and L-8).
5. To accommodate the improvements to the parking area between Launch #1 and Launch #2, the seasonal/host trailer sites would be relocated to the east side of the Launch #3 access road. Two trailer pads would be leveled and graveled. Two 50 amp electrical hook-up pedestals would be installed along with two potable water hydrants to service the trailer sites. Electrical power would be brought from the pumphouse shed along the existing roadways to the trailer sites. The existing water line to service the Launch #2 toilet would be tapped into to provide water. The water line would follow the existing roadways to the site. A 1,000 gallon lined concrete tank would be installed west of the trailer pads to collect gray water and human waste from the trailers. Sewer lines would be buried to connect the trailer sites to the tank (see drawings L-3 and L-9).
6. To improve capacity and reduce congestion at Launch #3, the existing boat ramp would be widened from the existing 16-feet to 48-feet. The expansion to the ramp would be south and east of the existing ramp. The ramp would have a gravel surface with timbered retaining walls on either side. The ramp would end at the same elevation as the existing ramp (see drawing L-6).

7. A new campground with 10 individual sites, 3 group sites and 4 RV trailer pads would be constructed south of the existing Launch #3 toilet. A new road would be leveled and graveled to access the campsites. Individual campsites would have a graveled pullout for parking, a picnic table, and a fire ring. No tent pads would be leveled in the individual sites. A new 1,000 gallon CTX vault toilet would be placed in the individual campsite area. The group sites would include graveled pullout parking areas, a large fire ring, 3–4 movable picnic tables, and 6 leveled tent pads. An overflow parking area would be constructed to accommodate the group campsites. The RV pads would be leveled and graveled. No other amenities would be included at the RV pads (see drawings L-5 and L-6).
8. A potable water line would be installed from the seasonal/host site to the new campground area. The alignment would follow the existing and new roadways. Two hydrants would be placed in the campground, one that would service the group campsites and Launch #3 areas and one that would service the individual camp sites near the new toilet. New hydrants would be located a minimum of 30 feet from the toilet facilities (see drawing L-5).
9. Approximately 1,500 feet of buck and rail fence would be built between the river and the individual campsites to prevent boat launching from the campground. The fence would have walk-through openings to allow pedestrian access through the fence to the river bank (see drawings L-5 & L-7).

Design Features of the Proposed Action:

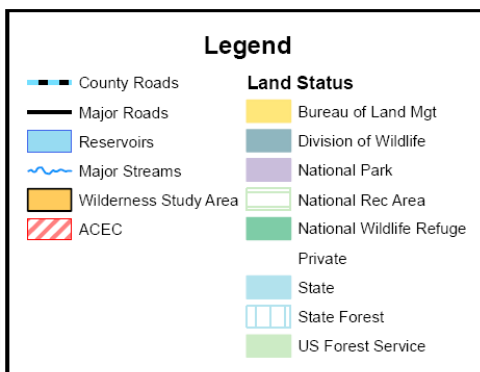
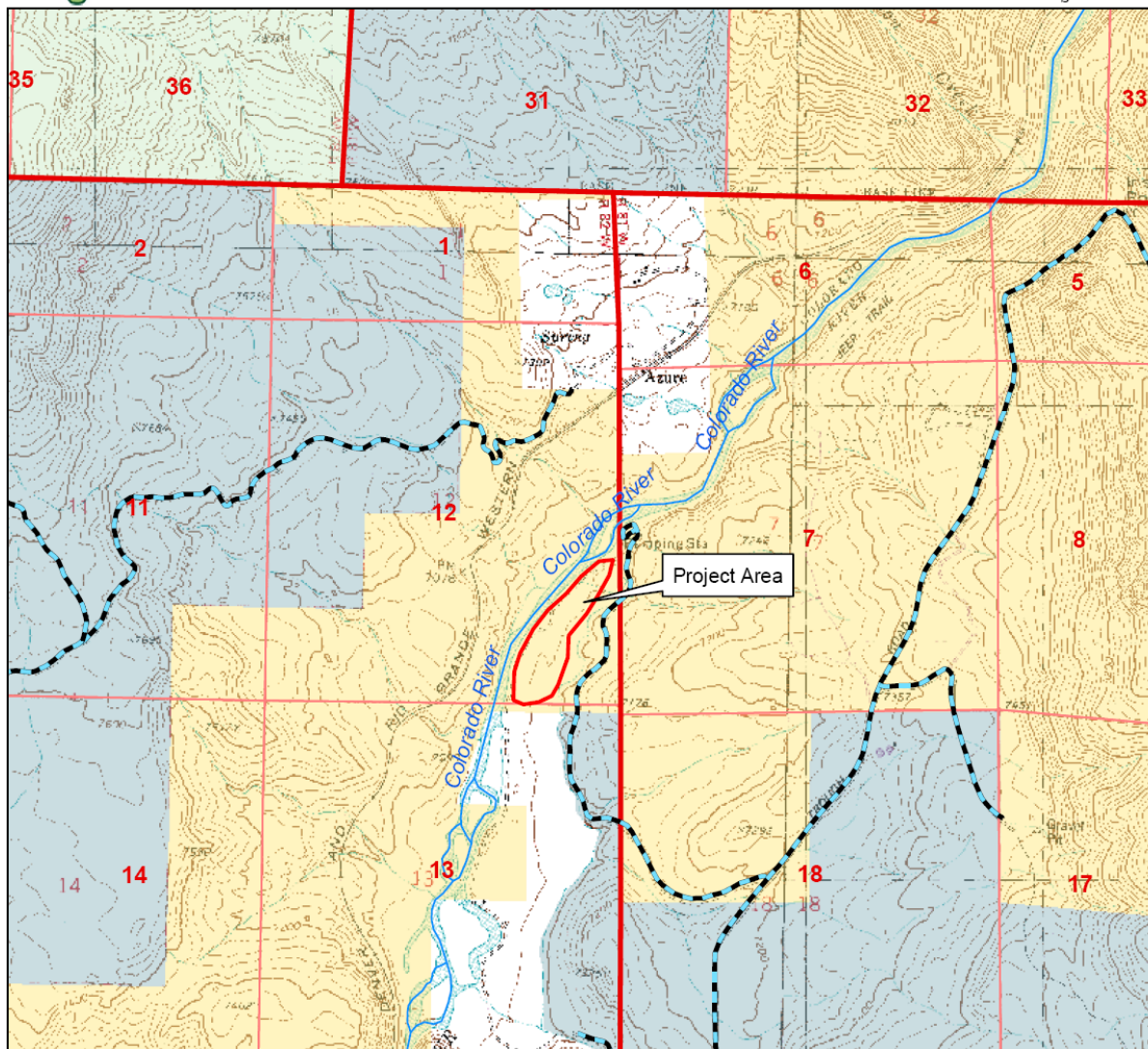
- The BLM would monitor the project area for the establishment or spread of invasive, non-native species after the project is completed. If invasive, non-native species become established as a result of the Proposed Action; BLM would be responsible for their control.
- When the existing staff trailer site is relocated, the current holding tank would need to be drained, collapsed, and buried on site. Grand County has requested that the BLM notify them when this occurs.
- During the construction period, the existing well should be flagged to increase visibility and insure it is not disturbed.
- All disturbed areas would require leveling, re-contouring, and re-seeding following construction. A BLM approved seed mix required for the reseeded is included in Attachment #2. Periodic monitoring of the vegetation would be required following project construction to ensure the seeded vegetation becomes established. If the seeding fails, reseeded would be required with the same or an alternative seed mix. Once an adequate stand of the intended vegetation is established, monitoring would no longer be required. The BLM would be responsible for the re-seeding and monitoring.

- All areas that are re-seeded should be signed as closed until re-vegetation takes place.
- The KFO paleontologist would monitor the excavation work during and post construction. Should fossils be discovered, the standard cultural/paleontological stipulations would be applied. The staff paleontologist would be given a 10-day notification prior to construction so that schedules can be arranged to monitor the geologic exposures post construction.
- To help seeding success, all possible topsoil and vegetation would be scraped from the planned surface disturbances and stockpiled. Topsoil should be re-spread on sites to be seeded wherever possible.
- If the construction period extends past November 1st, then the need for a stormwater permit would be reassessed, as the waiver expires on that date.
- If the boat ramps expansion would place material below the average high water line, then a United States Army Corps of Engineers section 404 Nationwide permit would need to be obtained.

Project Area Map:



Pumphouse Improvement Project



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

1:24,000

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the Accuracy, Reliability, or Completeness of this Data for Individual Use or Aggregate Use with Other Data.

Maps: BLM, Kremmling FO XX/XX/2007

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed improvements would not be constructed.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION: The purpose of the project is to consider improvements to the Pumpphouse Recreation Site. There is a need to consider these improvements to reduce congestion at the site and to enhance opportunities for recreation experiences associated with river-related activities.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: Decision #7, Page #11

Decision Language:

Objective: “To ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities which the public seeks and which are not readily available from other sources, to reduce the impact of the recreational use on fragile and unique resource values, and to provide for visitor safety, and resource interpretation.”

Implementation: “Manage and fund the Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area to provide river recreational opportunities and to reduce resource damage, solve visitor health and safety problems, and mitigate conflicts.”

Standards for Public Land Health: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. The following are the approved standards:

Standard	Definition/Statement
#1 Upland Soils	Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes surface runoff.
#2 Riparian Systems	Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water, function properly and have the ability to recover from major surface disturbances such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment, and provides forage, habitat and bio-diversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.
#3 Plant and Animal Communities	Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat’s potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations, and ecological processes.
#4 Threatened and	Special status, threatened and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and

Endangered Species	animals officially designated by the BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy, native plant and animal communities.
#5 Water Quality	The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirements set forth under State law as found in (5 CCR 1002-8), as required by Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act.

Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in the environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements below or in the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist (IDT-RRC) (Appendix 1).

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS: The following critical elements: Air Quality, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Environmental Justice, Farmlands- Prime and Unique, Floodplains, Native American Religious Concerns, Wastes, Hazardous or Solid, Wetlands and Riparian Zones, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Wilderness, were evaluated and determined that they were not present or that there would be no impact to them from the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative. See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1 for further information.

The following critical elements were determined to be potentially impacted and were carried forward for analysis from the IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: A class III cultural resource inventory (Report #CR-08-420 was conducted on approximately 24 acres. One previously recorded site 5GA698 that needs data lies in the middle of the project area. Site 5GA698 will be avoided by the placement of lathes and orange flagging tape and monitored by the Field Office Archaeologist during work activities.

Environmental Consequences: The Proposed Action would not impact any historic properties as long as the site is avoided and monitored during construction.

Mitigation:

-The staff archeologist would be given a 10-day notification prior to construction so that site 5GA698 could be avoided by the placement of lathes and orange flagging tape and monitored during work activities.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Currently, there is only a minor infestation of invasive, non-native species within the project area. Cheatgrass (*Bromis tectorum*) has become established in some of the disturbed areas within the project area. Flixweed (*Descurainia sophia*) has become established in some of the disturbed area, especially along the roads and around the parking areas and restrooms. A few perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) plants and small areas of Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) were observed in the north end of the project area. Canada thistle has invaded the south end of the project area where it is dominant in some areas, interspersed with other vegetation in some areas, and absent in other areas.

Environmental Consequences: The Proposed Action would create disturbed areas that would be susceptible to invasion by invasive, non-native species. These areas would require reseeding and frequent inspections until new desirable vegetation becomes established. Any invasive, non-native species that become established or spread because of the proposed disturbances would require treatment. As a result, the BLM is proposing to monitor and treat

any non-native species that become established. There would be no impacts from the No Action Alternative.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: A variety of migratory bird species, primarily birds of prey and songbirds, have been observed in the proposed project area. Surveys conducted in 1994 by the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas Partnership recorded many species including Cooper's hawks, Red-tailed hawks, Golden Eagles, Mountain Bluebirds, Common Nighthawks, American Robins, Barn and Cliff swallows, Killdeer, Mountain Chickadees, Mourning Doves, Violet-green swallows and Pinyon Jays.

Environmental Consequences: The construction activities, including increased traffic on the road and noise, may temporarily displace birds that use the area. However, sufficient habitat exists adjacent to the proposed site to support birds displaced by the construction. If birds are nesting adjacent to the project area when activity begins, they may abandon their nest. Since construction is planned to occur in the fall, there should be no impacts to nesting migratory birds. However, the following mitigation is proposed in case the construction schedule would change.

Mitigation:

-To reduce impacts to nesting migratory birds, there would be no construction between April 1st to June 15th.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: A list of threatened, endangered, and candidate species which could inhabit the area was received for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on March 31, 2008. Analysis of this list indicated that no listed species would be affected by the proposed project.

Harrington beardtongue, a BLM designated Sensitive Species, occurs less than 50 meters east of the proposed project area. This species is endemic to Colorado and is found in open sagebrush, road-cuts, and pinyon-juniper habitats from 6,800 to 9,200 feet-in-elevation. Their flowering period is June through July depending on moisture and temperature. Surveys for Harrington beardtongue were conducted in 1999 and 2003 by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) and in 2008 by BLM personnel.

Bald eagles, recently delisted from threatened status, are winter residents of the Colorado River corridor in the proposed project area.

Environmental Consequences: Since the occurrences of Harrington beardtongue are not found within the proposed project area and occur upslope from the proposed project, construction activities would not likely impact the plants. The proposed project would not remove any bald eagle habitat features such as roost or perch trees, nor would construction activities impact river habitat. Thus, the project would not impact bald eagles.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The proposed project area has not been assessed for compliance with the Standards for Land Health in Colorado.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action is located in the uplands adjacent to the Colorado River, in the Upper Colorado River Basin. This segment of the river is designated for aquatic life- coldwater class 1, recreation- class 1a, water supply and agriculture. The river has no known water quality concerns and is considered to be fully supporting designated uses. The United States Geologic Survey (USGS) monitors water quality and flows at the mouth of Gore Canyon, and the BLM monitors summer water temperatures just below Ramp 3.

The BLM has a water well that is located adjacent to the main parking lot between Launch 1 & 2 (see drawings). The well has a total depth of 140-feet, with perforated casing from 80-feet to the bottom of the hole.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed construction for the entire site development (2008 and future work) would disturb a little more than 1 acre of land. The BLM has applied for a stormwater permit waiver, as the fall construction period would not be expected to generate much runoff. If the construction period would extend past November 1st, then the need for a permit would have to be reassessed, as the waiver expires on that date.

The proposed site development would place gravel on new disturbances such as roads, parking lots, and the ramp expansion. The tent pad locations also have an aggregate requirement. These actions reduce the sediment load from the area. The proposed boat slide and boat ramp expansion also would place non-erosive material along high traffic areas. By improving these launch areas; the public would be less likely to impact additional bank locations. The proposed fence would also protect riparian vegetation that stabilizes streambanks and protects water quality. The proposed redesign is intended to better meet the recreational demands and use of the area, which should also reduce user created areas due to the existing layout. Under the No Action Alternative, the present conditions would be expected to continue with minor impacts occurring to water quality in the form of sediment loading from recreation activity.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The Proposed Action occurs in an area that is meeting the Standard. The site design intends to improve recreational use of the area, while providing for water quality protection with graveled roads, campsites, and boat ramps that have designed drainage.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: The following non-critical elements were determined to be potentially impacted and were carried forward for analysis from the IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: At the north end near the start of the Gore Canyon trail, the vegetation is mostly native species with basin wild rye (*Elymus cinereus*) dominant. Other grass species include western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*) and bluegrasses (*Poa* spp). The understory in this area is limited due to the dense overstory of basin wildrye.

At the south end, where the new campsites are proposed, the vegetation consists of two distinct types. Near the Colorado River, there are large areas of poor quality vegetation dominated by fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*). Some grassy areas can be found in this section of the project area that is dominated by western wheatgrass.

Associated vegetation includes Wood's rose (*Rosa woodsii*), bluegrasses, mullein, (*Verbascum thapsus*) needle and thread grass (*Hesperostipa comata*), and wild iris (*Iris missouriensis*). Basin wildrye and Rocky mountain juniper (*Sabina scopulorum*) occupy small areas of this part of the project area.

In the area for the proposed new campsites, the vegetation consists of a large area dominated by crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*) and another that was dominated by fringed sage. Each of these areas was mainly a monoculture with few other species growing within these areas. In the other areas, there are mixtures of grasses and forbs that include western wheatgrass, Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), bluegrasses, scarlet globemallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*), and broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*).

Environmental Consequences: The Proposed Action would disturb large areas of the project area's vegetation. These areas should be seeded with desirable species following completion of the construction phase of the project. The design features contained in the Proposed Action would help to mitigate impacts to vegetation. Under the No Action Alternative, there would continue to be minor impacts to vegetation in the project area in the form of trampling and disturbances from recreation activities.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The proposed project area has not been assessed for compliance with the Standards for Land Health in Colorado.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed project is adjacent to the Colorado River, which supports an abundant amount of aquatic wildlife, coldwater fish, ducks, geese, beavers, river otters, and muskrats.

Environmental Consequences: Increased traffic and noise as a result of the proposed construction activities would temporarily displace wildlife that uses the area. However, sufficient

habitat exists both upstream and downstream the Colorado River to support wildlife displaced by the activities associated with the proposed project. Under the No Action Alternative, traffic and noise would continue as a result of recreation activities.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The proposed project area has not been assessed for compliance with the Standards for Land Health in Colorado.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: A variety of upland wildlife depends on the habitat that surrounds the proposed project area. Rocky Mountain elk primarily use the area in winter while Mule deer use the area both in summer and winter months. Badgers, coyotes, cottontail rabbits, and a variety of small rodents live in the area on a year-long basis.

Environmental Consequences: Increased traffic and noise as a result of the proposed construction activities would temporarily displace wildlife that use the area. However, sufficient habitat exists adjacent to the proposed site to support wildlife displaced by the construction activities associated with the proposed project. Under the No Action Alternative, traffic and noise would continue as a result of recreation activities.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The proposed project area has not been assessed for compliance with the Standards for Land Health in Colorado.

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is geologically mapped as the Colorado Group, consisting of Niobrara Formation and either Benton Shale or Carlile Shale and Greenhorn or Greneros Formations, and the Dakota, Morrison, Curtis and Entrada Formations. The Colorado Group has a condition of 2 and a Primary Fossil Yield Classification of 3. The Dakota, Morrison, Curtis and Entrada Formations has a condition of 1 and a PFYC evaluation of 5. The Niobrara Formation has a moderate potential to yield significant vertebrate and invertebrate fossils, while the Dakota, Morrison, Curtis and Entrada Formations have a high potential to yield significant vertebrate fossils

Environmental Consequences: A pedestrian field inventory was completed for this project. Various shales, sandstone, and conglomerates were observed in the field but could not be easily differentiated. Fossils were observed and consisted of small round shells, larger scalloped shells, fish scales, plant twig impression and fossil "hash". Fossils are in a poor to good state of fossilization, showing flattening from compression. Small barite crystals were observed within the fossil bearing strata. Construction excavation would cut into the geologic formations and afford an excellent opportunity to examine freshly excavated soils and bedrock exposures for fossil resources.

Mitigation: The KFO Archeologist would monitor the geologic exposures post construction.

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: Soil information is from the Grand County Soil Survey and has not been field verified. Due to the differing scales of the survey and the site design, actual site conditions could be vary. The existing parking lot and campground are mapped as occurring in Forelle loams, 15-30% slopes. These soils formed in local alluvium from various sedimentary sources. The loam surface is underlain by sandy clay loams. Plant available water is high and surface runoff is medium. The soil is in a Clayey Foothill range site.

Portions of the individual campsites and development on the western portion are mapped as occurring in Cumulic Cryaquolls. These soils are formed in alluvium and alluvial outwash, on the floodplain adjacent to the river. They are generally considered “wetland soils”, but due to the upstream river diversions and controls, there is no longer the supporting hydrology to support wetlands. The soils have a rich loam surface that extends to at least 18 inches in depth.

Environmental Consequences: Wherever possible, disturbed sites that would be re-vegetated should have the topsoil removed first, stockpiled, and respread to improve seeding success. Surface layers from the Cumulic Cryaquolls are especially important to save for use as topsoil anywhere within the Pumphouse Site. Rehabilitated campsites may need temporary blockades or fencing to allow for seeding success.

Although upstream of the campground expansion is a historic irrigation ditch that intercepts some upland runoff, there appears to be an ephemeral drainage that flows towards the new group campsite. The proximity of the proposed action could alter the existing rate of runoff by either increasing or decreasing the runoff.

Mitigation: The tent pads in the group site should be located north and east of the bottom of the drainage.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: Land Health Standards are assessed on a landscape scale and not for an individual recreation site. The Proposed Action would not affect the overall area’s ability to meet the Standard, and due to the designed future expansion of the site, may help reduce offsite camping or parking that would impact soils. The No Action Alternative would maintain current conditions.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action is within the Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The recreation site is used primarily by river rafters, anglers, and campers. Approximately 30,000 visitors use the site annually. The site is the most heavily used river access along the Upper Colorado River. The season of use at the site is generally Memorial Day through Labor Day. Over 60% of the total use at the site is associated with commercial outfitting. Currently, the primary boat launch, the main parking area, the

seasonal trailer sites, and the campground are all in close proximity to each other. This arrangement leads to congestion and crowding on high use weekends.

Environmental Consequences: The Proposed Action would help alleviate the congestion in the north end of the site. Improving Launch #2 and #3 would allow use to spread out between the different launch sites. The proposed improvements would not change the overall setting at the site due to the intensive level of existing development. There would be short-term impacts to users at the site during the construction phase.

Mitigation: All construction should be completed outside the high use season. No construction should be allowed from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER RIGHTS

Affected Environment: The Pumphouse Recreation Site's Well was drilled in 1981. The BLM obtained water rights for the well in 1988 in water case number 87CW286, in Water Division 5. The well is decreed for drinking and cooking use in a public campground with an appropriation date of September 1, 1981. The right entitles the BLM to 0.011 cubic-feet/seconds (cfs) (4.9 gpm) and the well permit (permit # 116368) restricts the annual use to 2 acre-feet/year (651,702 gallons/yr).

Environmental Consequences: The Proposed Action includes adding additional water taps and hydrants to the existing water distribution system. Water will be available in more locations at the recreation site, but if visitation remains about the same as in the past, water use will remain about the same, as well. Increased visitation accommodated by the other improvements at the recreation site likely would result in increased water use. The BLM's water use at the site is controlled by Colorado water law and cannot impact senior water rights. Total yearly use and pumping rate have an established limit, and use must comply with the water right. Use approaching this limit may cause water to be rationed, or the water system to be turned off.

Mitigation: Water consumption at the recreation site would be monitored to ensure that water use does not exceed 2 acre-feet/year, pumped at the maximum rate of 4.9 gpm. If annual water use is likely to reach the limit authorized by the water right, alternative water management practices would be invoked. If the water system is turned-off, visitors would have to provide their own water, or water would have to be transported in tanks to the site from another source.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: All resource values have been evaluated for cumulative impacts. Since the proposed improvements would replace existing improvements and occur in an area that is already heavily developed, there would be no cumulative impacts.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: These improvements and modifications were outlined at the annual Upper Colorado River outfitter's meeting held on 4/11/2008. Several outfitters including Paul Renfrow with Adventures in Whitewater, Andrew Peterson with Cut Throat Anglers, John Cantamesa with Good Times Rafting, Dave Costlow with Mad Adventures, Mark Hammer with the Adventure Company, Joe Keslso with Colorado River Runs, Jeff Ehlert with Grand County Fishing Company attended the meeting. All outfitters present thought the

improvements would be good for the recreation site. Improving access to the river would help reduce congestion and potential conflicts.

The proposed project was posted on the Kremmling Field Office Internet NEPA Register and public room NEPA board.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

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Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION RECORD

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA. This decision is contingent on meeting all mitigation measures and monitoring requirements listed below.

RATIONALE: The improvements will reduce congestion at the Pumphouse Recreation Site and enhance opportunities for recreation experiences associated with river-related activities.

MITIGATION MEASURES: (See Attachment #1 for additional stipulations)

Cultural:

-The staff archeologist will be given a 10-day notification prior to construction so that site 5GA698 could be avoided by the placement of lathes and orange flagging tape and monitored during work activities.

Migratory Birds:

-To reduce impacts to nesting migratory birds, there will be no construction between April 1st to June 15th.

Water Rights:

-The increased water use cannot result in more than 2 acre-ft of pumping from the Pumphouse Well each year. Pumping rates cannot exceed 4.9 gpm.

Soils:

-The tent pads in the group site will be located north and east of the bottom of the drainage.

Recreation:

-All construction would be completed outside the high use season. No construction should be allowed from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING:

- Periodic monitoring of the vegetation will be required following project construction to ensure the seeded vegetation becomes established. If the seeding fails, reseeding will be required with the same or an alternative seed mix. Once an adequate stand of the intended vegetation is established, monitoring will no longer be required. The BLM would be responsible for the re-seeding and monitoring.
- The KFO paleontologist will monitor the excavation work during and post construction. Should fossils be discovered, the standard cultural/paleontological stipulations will be applied.
- The staff archeologist will be given a 10-day notification prior to construction so that site 5GA698 could be avoided by the placement of lathes and orange flagging tape and monitored during work activities.

NAME OF PREPARER: Andy Windsor

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Joe Stout

DATE: 7/30/08

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ David Stout

DATE SIGNED: 8/13/08

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1). Stipulations
- 2). BLM Approved Seed Mix
- 3). Drawings

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist

Attachment #1: Stipulations

Design Features of the Proposed Action:

- When the existing staff trailer site is relocated, the current holding tank will need to be drained, collapsed, and buried on site. BLM will notify Grand County when the tank will be drained, collapsed and buried.
- During the construction period, the existing well will be flagged to increase visibility and insure it is not disturbed.
- All disturbed areas will require leveling, re-contouring, and re-seeding following construction. A BLM approved seed mix required for the reseeded is included in Attachment #2. Periodic monitoring of the vegetation will be required following project construction to ensure the seeded vegetation becomes established. If the seeding fails, reseeded will be required with the same or an alternative seed mix. Once an adequate stand of the intended vegetation is established, monitoring will no longer be required. The BLM would be responsible for the re-seeding and monitoring.
- All areas that are re-seeded will be signed as closed until re-vegetation takes place.
- The staff paleontologist will be given a 10-day notification prior to construction so that schedules can be arranged to monitor the geologic exposures post construction.
- To help seeding success, all possible topsoil and vegetation will be scraped from the planned surface disturbances and stockpiled. Topsoil will be re-spread on sites to be seeded wherever possible.
- The new group campsite's proposed location and drainage will not detain runoff or increase runoff into the drainage.
- If the construction period extends past November 1st, then the need for a stormwater permit will be reassessed, as the waiver expires on that date.
- If the boat ramps expansion would place material below the average high water line, then a United States Army Corps 404 Nationwide permit will need to be obtained.
- No construction activities will be allowed from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Mitigation from Decision Record:

-The staff archeologist will be given a 10-day notification prior to construction so that site 5GA698 could be avoided by the placement of lathes and orange flagging tape and monitored during work activities.

-To reduce impacts to nesting migratory birds, there will be no construction between April 1st to June 15th.

-The increased water use cannot result in more than 2 acre-ft of pumping from the Pumphouse well each year. Pumping rates cannot exceed 4.9 gpm.

-The new group campsite's proposed location and drainage must not detain runoff or increase runoff into the drainage.

-No construction activities would be allowed from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Standard Cultural & Paleontological stipulations:

For purposes of this document and the application of these stipulations, the "holder" is the BLM contractor hired to complete this project.

The holder shall immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any and all antiquities, or other objects of historic, paleontological, or scientific interest including but not limited to, historic or prehistoric ruins or artifacts DISCOVERED as a result of operations under this authorization (16 U.S.C. 470.-3, 36 CFR 800.112). The holder shall immediately suspend all activities in the area of the object and shall leave such discoveries intact until written approval to proceed is obtained from the Authorized Officer. Approval to proceed will be based upon evaluation of the object(s). Evaluation shall be by a qualified professional selected by the Authorized Officer from a Federal agency insofar as practicable (BLM Manual 8142.06E). When not practicable, the holder shall bear the cost of the services of a non-Federal professional.

Within five working days the Authorized Officer will inform the holder as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
- A timeframe for the Authorized Officer to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the Authorized Officer are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the Authorized Officer will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the holder will be responsible for mitigation costs. The Authorized Officer will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the Authorized Officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the holder will then be allowed to resume construction.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest that are outside of the authorization boundaries but directly associated with the impacted resource will also be included in this evaluation and/or mitigation.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest, identified or unidentified, that are outside of the authorization and not associated with the resource within the authorization will also be protected. Impacts that occur to such resources, which are related to the authorizations activities, will be mitigated at the holder's cost.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the Authorized Officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer.

Attachment #2: Seed Mix and Seeding Rates for Pump House Reclamation

All seed must be Certified Weed Free Seed

Western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyum smithii</i>	3.0 # PLS*/acre
Bluebunch wheatgrass	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	3.0 # PLS/acre
Slender wheatgrass	<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i>	3.0 # PLS/acre
Canby bluegrass	<i>Poa canbyii</i>	1.0 # PLS/acre
Indian Ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	2.0 # PLS/acre
TOTAL		12.0 # PLS/acre

Drill Rate = 12.0# PLS/acre

Drill rate must be doubled if broadcast seeded = 24.0 # PLS/acre

* PLS = Pure Live Seed

Appendix #1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title: Pumphouse Improvements

Project Leader: Andy Windsor

Consultation/Permit Requirements:

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO	6/10/2008	7/30/08	BBW	See analysis in EA.
Native American	3/12/08	4/12/08	BBW	To date no Native American tribe has identified any traditional concerns in the project area.
T&E Species/FWS	N/A	N/A	M. McGuire	
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)	6/5/08		PBelcher	On 7/2/08, a Stormwater Permit Waiver was electronically filed with the EPA. On 7/18/08, it was certified by the BLM. If the Ramp 3 expansion extends below the average high water line, then a Nationwide 404 permit would be obtained prior to construction.

(NP) = Not Present

(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted

(PI) = Potentially Impacted and Brought Forward for Analysis.

NP NI PI	Discipline/Name	Date Review Comp.	Initials	Review Comments (required for Critical Element NIs, and for elements that require a finding but are not carried forward for analysis.)
CRITICAL ELEMENTS				
NI	Air Quality PBelcher	7/23/08	PB	The Proposed Action would not impact air quality.
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern J. Stout	7/30/08	JS	There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
PI	Cultural Resources Wyatt	7/30/08	BBW	See analysis in EA.
NP	Environmental Justice J. Stout	7/30/08	JS	According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2000), there are no minority or low income communities within the Kremmling

				Planning Area.
NP	Farmlands, Prime and Unique PBelcher	7/23/08	PB	There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NI	Floodplains PBelcher	7/23/08	PB	The Proposed Action is primarily located in the uplands. The boat ramp expansion and boat slide would be within the floodplain, but would not impact the flood plain functionality or flood hazard.
PI	Invasive, Non-native Species Johnson	7/2/08	RJ	See Analysis in EA
PI	Migratory Birds McGuire	7/17/08	MM	See Analysis in EA
NP	Native American Religious Concerns Wyatt	7/30/08	BBW	To date. no Native American tribe has identified any traditional concerns in the project area.
PI	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4) McGuire	7/17/08	MM	See Analysis in EA
NI	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid Hodgson	7/11/08	KH	There are no quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area, and there would be no wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
PI	Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5) Belcher	7/23/08	PB	See analysis in EA.
NI	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2) Belcher	7/23/08	PB	The majority of the construction would occur in upland areas and would not impact wetland areas. Ramps 2 & 3 currently exist, and the boat slide and planned expansion would not impact the river's riparian area.
NI	Wild and Scenic Rivers Stout	7/30/08	JS	The Proposed Action would not impact the ORVs, free flowing character, or tentative classification (i.e. Recreational) of the eligible section of the Colorado River since the construction activities would occur in a development recreation site.
NP	Wilderness Stout	7/30/08	JS	There is no designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS (A finding must be made for these elements)				
PI	Soils (Finding on Standard 1) Belcher	7/23/08	PB	See analysis in EA.
PI	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3) Johnson	7/2/08	RJ	See analysis in EA.
PI	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3) McGuire	7/17/08	MM	See analysis in EA
PI	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3) McGuire	7/17/08	MM	See analysis in EA
OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS				
NI	Access/Transportation Windsor	7/16/08	AW	Access to Launch #3 would be interrupted during the construction period. Access would not be interrupted at Launch #2 or Launch #1. The project would not impact access to the river.
NI	Forest Management Rosene	2/24/08	RR	No impacts.
NI	Geology and Minerals Hodgson	7/11/08	KH	No impacts.

PI	Hydrology/Water Rights	Belcher	7/23/08	PB	See analysis in EA.
PI	Paleontology	Rupp	7/23/08	FR	See analysis in EA.
NI	Noise	Monkouski	7/23/08	JM	There would be minimal, short-term impacts from construction equipment. However, these impacts would be negligible when considered with other noise from recreation activities in the area.
NP	Range Management	Johnson	6/17/08	RJ	No livestock grazing is authorized within the project area.
PI	Lands/ Realty Authorizations	Cassel	6/26/08	SC	There are no leases or permits in the proposed project location. There is a right-of-way to Yampa Valley Electric (COC-53546) which would have to be amended for the additional electrical lines being brought to the camping sites.
PI	Recreation	Windsor	5/30/08	AW	See analysis in EA.
NI	Socio-Economics	J. Stout	7/30/08	JS	There would be no impacts.
NI	Visual Resources	Hodgson	7/11/08	KH	Class II VRM. Pumphouse Recreation Area is currently a developed campground site with boat launches, toilet facilities, camp sites, etc. The Proposed Action would not alter the existing visual character of the landscape nor attract any additional attention.
NI	Cumulative Impact Summary	J. Stout	7/30/08	JS	There would be no impacts.
FINAL REVIEW					
	P&E Coordinator	J. Stout	7/30/08	JS	
	Field Manager	D. Stout			